WDS-001   09/771,333   08680001aa
Amendment dated 02/17/2005   Reply to office action mailed 08/17/2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each .

The Examiner has objected to the informal drawings submitted with the application. Formal drawings overcoming the Examiner's objection are submitted herewith.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8, 10, 13, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This amendment overcomes these grounds for rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 11-12, and 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,930,473 to Teng et al. ("Teng"). Teng provides for data streaming between clients across a TCP/IP network (col. 3, lines 4-9). Teng's approach is responsive to the high bandwidth requirements of streaming video signals (col. 2, line 64, to col. 3, line 34), and in particular the need to guarantee the bandwidth required for each video signal (col. 3, lines 23-25) and to prevent additional requests from overloading the system (col. 3, lines 29-30). Consequently, the data streaming is regulated and controlled by a server (col. 3, lines 54-58). For example, a source client may authorize a viewer client to broadcast a video stream (col. 4, ,lines 15-18), but this authorization and its revocation are handled via requests to the server (col. 4, lines 18-29).

By contrast, the present invention is responsive to site monitoring needs of a customer. For example, a customer may want to monitor her child under the care of a babysitter at the customer's home, using a webcam connected to a home computer at the home. Using a remote computer, the customer logs on to the web site of the Mediator node, which then establishes a direct connection between the customer's

home computer (the Sender node) and the remote computer (the Viewer node). But once the connection is established, control of the connection must rest with the Viewer. Consequently, the present invention provides for the Viewer to control the connection, most particularly by pausing and restarting the video stream at the Sender (page 7, lines 23-24). No intervention of the Mediator node is required, as in Teng. Teng fails to disclose or suggest a Viewer managed system as described in the present invention. It should also be noted that Teng fails to describe how the server handles the need for knowing where the sender and viewer clients are, so that the server can provide the viewer with a proper address of the sender. In the present invention, the Sender provides its address to the Mediator node at the time the transmission of streaming data is started or restarted by the Viewer. Teng does not disclose such a mechanism. Furthermore, in order to be responsive to the customers of a system according to the present invention, the Mediator node contains a repository of session information. This repository is maintained to provide suitable reports to the customer (page 21, lines 9-10). The independent claims 1, 14, 20 and 21 have been amended to clarify the foregoing aspects of the invention and are therefore now believed to be in allowable form.

The Examiner has rejected claims 9, 10 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,292 to Dean et al. ("Dean"). Applicant acknowledges that Dean teaches a token based approach to security. However, since these claims are dependent upon claims now believed to be allowable, this ground of rejection is believed to be moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-22 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: clyde@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.
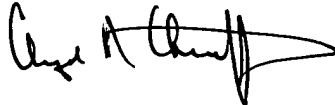
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Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to
Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheets 1-4 replace the original drawing sheets 1-4.